

Vermont Integrated Services Initiative Summary and Commissioner Policy Statement

Summary

Vermont has taken significant important steps over the last several years to increase the systems' capacity to provide accessible, effective, comprehensive, integrated and evidence-based services for adults and adolescents with co-occurring conditions. The Vermont Integrated Services Initiative (VISI) is an effort to build on work accomplished in the CRT system and work in progress through the Adolescent Treatment Enhancement Grant (ATE) to advance and connect all current and previous change efforts into one statewide initiative called the Vermont Integrated Services Initiative. The VISI will provide incentive funds, technical assistance, training, clinical consultation and a quality improvement process to help agencies increase their capacity to welcome, screen, assess and treat people with co-occurring conditions.

VISI is inviting the Community Mental Health Agencies, members of the substance use preferred provider network, selected primary care clinics and selected mental health and substance use treatment courts to participate in this Initiative.

Commissioner of Health - Policy Statement (2007)

The healthcare system in Vermont will be welcoming, accessible, integrated, and responsive to the multiple and complex needs of persons and families experiencing co-occurring mental health and substance use conditions, in all levels of care, across all agencies, and throughout all phases of the recovery process (e.g. engagement, screening, assessment, treatment, rehabilitation, discharge planning, and continuing care).

In order to accomplish this within scarce resources, all of the involved substance use, mental health and primary care settings and systems will build on the consensus process and previous work described above to organize a state wide performance improvement process in which every program of care will become a co-occurring capable program, and every clinician will become a co-occurring competent clinician within the context of their current level of licensure or training. Over the next several years, the state will make a commitment to work in partnership with mental health and substance use and primary health provider agencies, clinicians, and consumer/family advocates to make steady progress toward this goal.